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<http://healthoregon.org/dwp>

August 7, 2019

Paul Brewster
Watsonville Water System
PO Box 4077
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Re: Watsonville Water System Site Visit

Dear Mr. Brewster:

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Drinking Water Services (DWS) conducted a public water system site visit at Watsonville Water System on May 9, 2019. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the water system source, treatment, storage, distribution network, operation, maintenance, and management in terms of capacity to provide safe drinking water. I have enclosed a copy of the report for your records. Please let me know if anything is incorrect.

Several issues with the system were identified and need to be corrected as soon as possible. **By October 15, 2019 you must submit a written corrective action plan** describing how and when the following requirements will be met:

- 1. Install filtration** which adequately removes parasites and sediment (turbidity) from the water source. The most economical and effective options for small water systems are usually cartridge filtration, membrane filtration, or slow or rapid sand filtration. Only certain filtration systems meet criteria stipulated by DWS. You or a qualified contractor you select can work with DWS drinking water engineers to ensure an approved system is installed. Alternatively, a new groundwater well or springs source could be developed which many not need any treatment.
- 2. Disinfect water** after it is filtered. Your water supply is not currently chlorinated. Filtered water needs to have adequate contact (storage) time with chlorine to disinfect. That disinfection time could probably be achieved if filtered water was chlorinated prior to entering the storage tank. Chlorine should also be added to the water proportionally to the flow. (Note: Water still must be filtered to remove parasites, even if disinfected, because chlorine is not very effective at killing *Cryptosporidium* and is only somewhat effective at killing *Giardia*).
- 3. Collect required chemical samples:** arsenic (one time only) and nitrate (annually).
- 4. Distribute the enclosed boil water notice** as well as post visibly in any outside areas with water system access (such as shared outside spigots). Until the drinking water is properly treated it is imperative for the health of the community that all residents and visitors be routinely notified the water is not safe to drink due to risk of microbial contamination that could cause acute illness. A sample of your water collected on July 8, 2019 tested positive for *E. coli* which indicates that fecal pathogen presence is likely.

In addition, I recommend that you begin to monitor turbidity, water temperature, and pH daily. Turbidity

provides information that can help you make the most prudent water treatment system selection. For example: if turbidity is very high, cartridge filtration without any backwashable pre-cartridge filtration may not be viable. pH and temperature are factors in determining the efficacy of disinfection and will be useful in determining how much storage contact time is needed.

If a corrective action plan addressing all stated requirements is not submitted by the October 15, 2019 deadline a more formal enforcement process will be initiated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (971) 673-5393 or by email at daniel.l.hough@state.or.us. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Hough".

Daniel Hough, REHS
Small Drinking Water System Specialist
Drinking Water Services

Enclosures: Water System Inspection Report, Boil Water Notice Template

CC: Rick Hallmark, Coos County Health Department